

It seems mistaken to describe Cardinal Weld as the first English cardinal since the Reformation: Cardinal Allen and the Dominican Cardinal Howard preceded him. And the amusing anti-Catholic catechism is surely not a Kensitite production. It has more distinguished literary origins in the works of Mrs Sherwood.

I.E.

VINEYARDS IN ENGLAND. Edited by Edward Hyams. (Faber and Faber; 25s.)

Vineyards in England and castles in Spain will probably seem to most people to be all one. For those, however, who have had the pleasure of cultivating their own vines, or who, like the present writer, have drunk a satisfactory table wine made from an English outdoor grape, the appearance of this wise and elegant handbook will be something of an event. It claims to be a practical volume, and that it undoubtedly is. Experts, both English and French, have contributed on every aspect of viticulture, and the editor has written a short and useful section with diagrams on the construction of a wine-press. Considerable attention has rightly been paid to the questions of soil and climate, and while it is hard to make distinctions where the standard of writing is so uniformly high, the chapters of P. Morton Shand and of Dr Alex Muir on these matters may be mentioned as particularly lucid and informative. Inevitably the modest and encouraging report on the Oxted Viticultural Research Station by R. Barrington Brock, and his chapter, furnished with tables of observations, on *Varieties of the English Vineyard*, have an importance all their own. Excellent illustrations add to the value of what must be regarded as a careful and authoritative survey.

Were these the only merits of Mr Hyams' book the reader could feel amply repaid for his money, but the editor has seen to it that his subject is not, in the historical sense, presented rootless. Jacquetta Hawkes has gathered the materials for a short essay on *Wine and Vine in Pre-Conquest Britain*, in which she takes occasion to note that at that period the October vintage was an important enough event to give this season the name of the *wyn moneth*. Domesday Book, which provides some forty entries of English vineyards, records the most northerly at York Abbey. That a climatic change did occur in Europe round about 1350 has, we are told, been established by palaeo-botany; prior to that date, although most northern winters were severe, the summers were hot and the rainfall lower than at present. Nevertheless the classical English gardeners of the seventeenth century, like Sir Thomas Hanmer, maintained their enthusiasm and, apparently, their success. John Rose, Charles II's gardener, argued in his *The English Vineyard Vindicated* with the cogency of a man of experience for the exploitation of the poor and rough soils which nourish only

brambles. Perhaps a modern vindication such as the present one will stir the long-dormant spirit of our more sanguine ancestors. The appalling effects of groundless prejudice are aptly cited in connection with the commercialisation of Cox's Orange Pippin, and the virtual disappearance of those excellent varieties, the products of years of careful attention to local needs and conditions, whose very names enshrine the lore-learned workers of forgotten enterprise: *Tom Putt* and *Little Herbert*, *Granny Giffard*, and, here a whole village, *D'Arcy Spice*. The gardeners' calendars at this time of the year begin to prescribe a little armchair planning. It would be good to feel that this winter would produce a few worthy resolutions to restore vineyards to England.

A.S.

THE TRIAL OF PETER BARNES AND OTHERS. (The I.R.A. Coventry Explosion of 1939.) Edited by Letitia Fairfield, C.B.E., M.D., in the series 'Notable British Trials'. (William Hodge; 15s.)

In August 1939 a member of the Irish Republican Army placed a bomb in a busy street in Coventry, where it later exploded, killing five people who chanced to be passing. He escaped, but two men, Peter Barnes and James Richards, who had assisted in manufacturing the bomb, were arrested and after trial at the Old Bailey were found guilty and hanged; three other persons were acquitted at the same time. Barnes and Richards were found guilty by virtue of the well-known rule of English law that, where several persons combine together to commit a felonious act of violence, which a reasonable man would regard as likely to result in a death, all those persons are guilty of murder, if death in fact results, whether they assisted in the act itself or merely took part in its planning. Whatever the moral problem may be, this is a salutary rule in practice.

The straightforward account of the trial, which is the greater part of this book, is especially interesting for three things: the way the evidence was pieced together, the calm, almost sympathetic, manner in which the prosecution conducted its case, and the personalities of the two principal accused. Both were working-class Irishmen, active members of the I.R.A., whose motive in coming to England was to take part in acts of terrorism. But whereas Barnes put up a fantastic story which deceived nobody, and protested his innocence even after the verdict, Richards behaved with soldierly dignity. However loathsome the crime for which he was hanged, he conducted himself during the trial as if he considered himself to be a martyr in an honourable cause.

As well as editing the account of the trial, Dr Fairfield has written an introduction setting out the whole story of the I.R.A.'s efforts at terrorism. Many of the introductions in this series of books are written in the style of the detective story, but the present one is on an altogether higher level.